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R 091629Z MAY 08
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 2987
INFO RUCNRAQ/IRAQ COLLECTIVE
RUEHSM/AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM 1624

UNCLAS PARIS 000901

SENSITIVE
SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: EAID ECON EFIN EINV PREL PGOV FR IZ
SUBJECT: INITIAL FRENCH RESPONSE ON ATTENDANCE AT STOCKHOLM
MINISTERIAL FOR IRAQ COMPACT

REF: STATE 437999

¶1. (SBU) French MFA Iraq desk officer Olivier Masseret told us late May 7 that the GOF had not yet decided who would lead its delegation to the ICI ministerial in Stockholm at the end of May. As he has previously indicated, Masseret said that FM Kouchner would like to attend, but Kouchner's schedulers have not yet determined whether this would be feasible.

(Comment: Despite French reluctance to host the ICI ministerial and be an active participant, because of France's belief that the top priorities in Iraq are stabilizing the security situation and promoting national reconciliation, Paris remains extremely interested in the Compact and how it can help international efforts on behalf of Iraq's reconstruction. End comment)

¶2. (SBU) Masseret said he would pass reftel points to other concerned offices in the MFA and throughout the GOF. He agreed to pass along any detailed responses he receives next week, i.e., after the current vacation period that has decimated most GOF offices. Embassy will pursue this demarche with other ministries and offices in the meantime and report any significant responses septel.

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